

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15469 251745Z

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 15469

LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NEW U.S. DATA FOR PUBLIC USE

REF: (A) STATE 209532 AND 209615, (B) STATE 210236,

(C) USNATO 5083 AND 5098

1. FOLLOWING OCT 19 U.S. NATO PRESENTATION OF NEW U.S. DATA (IN REF A, AMENDED) AND MBFR DEL INFORMING U.K. AND FRG VIENNA DELS ON THESE FIGURES, EMBOFF DREW ON STATE 210236 IN URGING RUTH TO SUPPORT EXPEDITIOUS ALLIED AGREEMENT ON PUBLIC USE AND USE WITH THE EAST OF THE SIX FIGURES. WITH RUTH, AND IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH ADMIRAL STEINHAUS OF DEFENSE MINISTRY POLICY PLANNING STAFF, EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT WESTERN PUBLIC WOULD FAIL TO UNDERSTAND IF ALLIES WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE AGREED FIGURES; EMBOFF ALSO CAUTIONED THAT SOVIETS COULD EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION PUBLICLY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 15469 251745Z

2. RUTH FULLY AGREED THAT ALLIES MUST PRODUCE AGREED

FIGURES FOR PUBLIC USE AT THE OPENING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS; HE REJECTED THE ARGUMENT OF SOME ALLIES THAT SUCH FIGURES SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL THEY WERE FIRST PRESENTED TO THE SOVIETS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. RUTH ALSO SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE SIX FIGURES PROPOSED BY THE U.S., BUT ADDED THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY STILL HAD NOT PROVIDED HIM WITH ITS EVALUATION.

3. STEINHAUS LISTENED CAREFULLY AND TOOK NOTES ON EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION. HE SEEMED TO BE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE POINT (ADVANCED BY U.S. MBFR DEL REPS - VIENNA 8760 - PARA 8) THAT DATA ON MANPOWER IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE AND THAT WHEN IN DOUBT IT WAS BETTER TO USE HIGHER ESTIMATES ON SOVIET FORCES. STEINHAUS SAID HE PERSONALLY SAW MERIT IN THE PROPOSITION THAT SOVIETS WOULD INEVITABLY CHALLENGE WESTERN FIGURES AS BEING TOO HIGH SO INITIAL WESTERN PRESENTATION OF DATA ON SOVIET FORCES SHOULD PROVIDE SOME ROOM FOR NEGOTIATING MANEUVER. (RUTH ALSO VOICED THIS OPINION.) STEINHAUS PROMISED TO GET BACK TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY REACTION.

4. COMMENT. DEFENSE MINISTRY PROBABLY WILL REQUEST FRGNATO DEL TO SEEK CLARIFICATION REGARDING DISCREPANCIES IN FIGURES MENTIONED BY U.S. NATO IN REF C. LIKE U.S. NATO WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY THESE DISCREPANCIES ASAP IN ORDER TO ASSURE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THUS GERMAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR U.S. WISH TO MAKE USE OF THESE FIGURES IN VIENNA AT THE OPENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

HILLENBRAND

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